

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9749

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS WHITE HOUSE

FROM ENVOY WALTERS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, US, VT
SUBJECT: THE POPE'S MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT

1. VATICAN SUBSTITUTE SECRETARY OF STATE CAPRIO TOLD ME MAY 24 THAT, "HIS HOLINESS, POPE PAUL VI WISHED THAT I CONVEY TO PRESIDENT CARTER A VERY PERSONAL MESSAGE OF CONTINUING SUPPORT AND ADMIRATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S ACTIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD, THAT HIS HOLINESS HAD CONFIDENCE THAT THE U.S. REPRESENTED ONLY CONSTRUCTIVE FORCE FOR WORLD PEACE GIVEN THE NEGATIVE POSTURE OF THE USSR AND THE UNRELIABILITY OF THE NON-ALLIGNED NATIONS WHO SHIFTED POSITION FROM ONE DIRECTION TO ANOTHER, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS CONTINUOUSLY IN HIS HOLINESS' PRAYERS AS THE ONE GREAT HOPE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE WORLD."

2. THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WHICH ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI READ OUT DURING A FORMAL LUNCHEON MAY 18, SINCE I BELIEVE IT PROVIDES AN AUTHORITATIVE AND EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF HOW THE HOLY SEE PERCEIVES THE NATURE, PURPOSE AND USEFULNESS OF MY
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MISSION AS THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL ENVOY TO THE VATICAN.

QUOTE I THANK YOUR EXCELLENCY AND MRS. WALTERS VERY MUCH FOR THE COURTEOUS INVITATION EXTENDED TO ME AND TO OUR FRIENDS GATHERED HERE, AS ALSO FOR YOUR KIND WORDS. EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE NOT FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE HOLY SEE, THE

MISSION THAT HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED TO YOU BY YOUR PRESIDENT AS HIS PERSONAL ENVOY TO THE HOLY SEE OFFERS INDEED SUBSTANTIAL POSSIBILITIES OF HAVING CONTACTS AND OF EXCHANGING VIEWS. THE HOLY SEE DEEMS THIS OF SINGULAR INTEREST AND USEFULNESS. IN FACT, THE HOLY SEE, AND THE HOLY FATHER PERSONALLY, ARE DEEPLY SENSITIVE TO AND RESPONSIBLY INTERESTED IN VARIOUS SERIOUS PROBLEMS, IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES ARE CALLED TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE AND BEAR A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY. I AM THINKING, ABOVE ALL, OF PROBLEMS RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL SITUATIONS, BOTH AS A WHOLE AS WELL AS IN PARTICULARLY "HOT" REGIONAL AREAS. THE HOLY SEE, WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY DEVOID OF MATERIAL FORCES, BUT ENDOWED WITH THE MORAL FORCE DERIVED FROM ITS MISSION AND FROM ITS PAST HISTORY, IS EVER READY TO AND DESIROUS OF GIVING ITS SUPPORT AND, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF ITS POSSIBILITIES, ITS COLLABORATION TO FURTHER THE CAUSE OF PEACE AMONG PEOPLES AND TO BRING ABOUT JUST SOLUTIONS TO CONTROVERSIES AND CONFLICTS WHICH SO FREQUENTLY SET NATIONS ONE AGAINST ANOTHER. TOWARDS THIS END, THOUGH NOT EXCLUSIVELY SO, ARE DIRECTED THE RELATIONS WHICH THE HOLY SEE IS PLEASED TO MAINTAIN WITH STATES, BOTH CATHOLIC AND NON-CATHOLIC, IN EVERY CONTINENT. THE CONTACTS WITH YOUR EXCELLENCY AND WITH YOUR ASSISTANT MR. SARROS, CAN, AND MUST, SERVE THIS SAME PURPOSE, FOR YOU REPRESENT TO US IN SOME WAY THE GREAT STRENGTH - AND THIS DOES NOT MEAN ONLY THE MATERIAL ONE: POLITICAL, CONFIDENTIAL

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MILITARY AND ECONOMIC - OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. MY BEST WISHES GO TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND THE FRUITFUL OUTCOME OF OUR CONTACTS, AS WELL AS FOR THE GOOD HEALTH OF MRS. WALTERS AND YOUR EXCELLENCY AND OF ALL OUR FRIENDS HERE PRESENT. END QUOTE

3. CASAROLI ALSO MADE SPECIAL POINT THAT HE WANTED VERY MUCH TO CONVEY THROUGH ME CORDIAL GREETINGS AND ESTEEM FOR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, CITING AS PARTICULARLY USEFUL THEIR MEETINGS AT THE VATICAN IN 1977 AND IN WASHINGTON EARLIER THIS YEAR. GARDNER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED THE WHITE HOUSE.

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